

WITKZ

The Spark Gap

FEBRUARY 1986

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Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

President's Message

by Tom Kinahan, N1CPE

After turning the corner of 1986 and looking headlong into the rest of the club year, there are a few things we should think about. Field Day 1986 ought to be in the works now. Let's try to do it right this year and get an OSCAR 10 station, in the works, along with the standard HF stations.

The program committee is still looking for ideas for the upcoming meetings; contact Art Thompson, K1ENP, with ideas.

The June VHF contest is creeping up just two weeks before Field Day. For those that haven't made that trip, talk to September's first timers Vern Valero, N1DSZ, Jed Weare, G3VUH, and Paul Monroe, K1LDV. I expect that they will give loads of encouragement! Oh, and on the results of last September's VHF QSO Party: WITKZ was sixth nationally in the Multiop category. We really cleaned up on 1296 MHz where we had the second most points. We were in the top ten on all bands except 2 meters and 6 meters. All in all a really outstanding effort. Check out January QST for details.

Hereabouts...

by Vern Valero, N1DSZ

The code practice sessions have not yet begun in earnest due to the large workload involved in starting up the Novice Class. But I will try hard to set up the equipment before the next meeting at the Red Cross.

Code Practice:

- 7 p.m. on WARS meeting nights
- At the Red Cross
- Any speed you want
- Don't be shy, just pick up a pencil and copy

By the way, I'll be copying also.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The U.S. Court of Appeals has ruled in favor of WM4T in the case of Thernes v City of Lakeside Park, Kentucky. The lower court, the U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Kentucky, had upheld a municipal ban on Amateur antennas because they were not specifically permitted as accessory uses within the city. The Appeals Court majority opinion found that the district court's judgment should be vacated, and it remanded the matter to the district court for reconsideration. The dissenting judge of the three didn't think this strong enough: he would end the case at once by reversing the lower court and declaring the city's ordinance unconstitutional. The real hero in this action? FCC's Memorandum Opinion and Order in PRB-1, the release of which was expedited in the hope of turning the tide in the Thernes case.

So, okay--it's not "over" yet, because the lower court must reconsider its verdict as ordered by the Appeals Court. And there's the matter of recovery of legal expenses by the plaintiff-appellant. But it's safe to say that PRB-1 works.

ARRL Letter, January 16, 1986

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

February 6, 1986 at 7:30 p.m.
February 20, 1986 at 7:30 p.m.
211 Washington St., Wellesley

education corner



by Vern Valero, N1DSZ

Believe it or not, 1986 is a perfect year to upgrade. Why? This year is pretty much the low point of the sunspot cycle, so HF activity seems as bad as it can get. So what is everyone going to do with that free time? Upgrade, of course! Be prepared for the future upswing in conditions with new and valuable privileges!

I have already received a few inquiries about whether there will be a General class this year. If you are interested or know of someone who is, please mention it to me.

A thought that has crossed my mind is the possibility of an Advanced class. Apparently Advanced classes are rare, but if there is enough interest we can try to set one up. I would like to limit such a class to ten people or fewer. So if anyone is interested, please let me know.

Here are a few of my thoughts about upgrading. Amateur Radio is such a diverse and dynamic hobby. There are so many interesting concepts and techniques to learn about. Trying to figure out how things work and why is one of the most exciting parts. The FCC exams are just "milestones" in our Amateur "careers". So why not upgrade? You might learn something new and fascinating!

Flea Market

February 22: The Norwood Amateur Radio Club will be holding a flea market at the Norwood Junior High School South on Washington Street. Doors open at 8:00 a.m. for sellers, 9:00 a.m. for buyers. Admission is \$2.00 and tables are \$10.00 each. Talk in on 146.295/895 and 146.52. For more information or to reserve a table, contact the Norwood ARC, 76

Winter Street, Norwood, MA 02062.

March 2: The Mt. Tom Amateur Repeater Association is having its annual flea market at the Knights of Columbus Elder Council 69 on 460 Granby Road, in Chicopee, Mass. Doors open to vendors at 8:00 a.m. and for the general public from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tables are \$7.00 in advance, \$8.00 at the door. Admission is \$1.00, ladies and children free. Talk in on 146.34/94. For reservations, write the Mt. Tom ARA, P.O. Box 3494, Springfield, MA 01101.

Hamnews

Several are reportedly in the running to fill retired FCC Commissioner Henry Rivera's seat. It is also reported that Commissioners Mimi Dawson and Dennis Patrick are believed to be the front runners for the agency's chairmanship if Mark Fowler decided to step down. However, he is believed to be considering serving another term in office.

Westlink Report, December 27, 1985

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Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society



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THE "SPARK GAP" IS THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, FCC RULES AND REGULATIONS CHANGES AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SEND THEIR ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR. ITEMS PRINTED IN THE "SPARK GAP" MAY BE REPRINTED BY OTHER AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICATIONS PROVIDED THE AUTHOR AND THE "SPARK GAP" ARE GIVEN CREDIT.

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THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
211 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181



Hamnews

The creation of a computer hobbyist's radio service from the "vast wasteland" of 52-54 MHz is the suggestion of noted Radio Amateur Don Stoner, W6TNS. Called the "Public Digital Radio Service," it was the subject of the little publicized RM-5241.

The Stoner proposal calls for converting the upper two MHz of 6 meters from Amateur use to a computer hobbyist's unlicensed radio system, using the packet mode at speeds up to 1 Megabaud and the use of local area networking for information interchange. The transceivers, or "radio modems" would be direct-connect devices to personal computers, be limit-

ed to a maximum of 1 watt power output, and would use a detachable vertical monopole type antenna.

Unlike most petitions aimed at re-allocating Amateur spectrum, RM-5241 went almost unnoticed by the Amateur community until only a few days prior to the close of the period for comments. While there may be many reasons for this, possibly the one most likely is that there are very few Amateurs who use the six meter band. Stoner estimates the total population of six meters in the domestic United States at under 1000 out of nearly 450,000 licensed Amateurs. Only a handful of cities have any appreciable 6 meter activity, and even there, the activity can best be described as low level. The fact that you did not get a chance to comment on RM-5241 means little, because even if approved, it still must be turned into a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and go through the entire regulatory system as outlined in the Administrative Procedures Act.

Westlink Report, January 10, 1986

The FCC has given some ex-hams a Christmas present they wish had never come. The Commission has released a Report and Order on Docket 85-51 which closes a loophole by which former licensees whose Amateur licenses had been suspended, revoked or surrendered voluntarily to the FCC could remain on the air by any of a number of third-party methods. These included having access to the station of another licensed Amateur in the very same domicile, access to the station of a licensed Amateur at another location, dialing in to a repeater autopatch in order to become part of an ongoing QSO, or simply being phone-patched onto the air by another station. The latter method was used extensively by former followers of the now defunct "Underground Radio" group in Los Angeles after many lost their ham tickets due to FCC enforcement actions. To close the loophole the Commission has added simple language to its Part 97 rules which spell out, in

very simple terms, who cannot avail himself of third-party communications. As of January 24, 1986, Part 97.114(c) specifically forbids current Amateur license holders from allowing certain former license holders from participating in third party traffic. These are individuals whose Amateur license is under current suspension or revocation, individuals whose Amateur licenses were suspended for the balance of their terms and have not been relicensed, anyone who is the object of a federally issued Cease and Desist Order, and former hams who have surrendered their licenses to the FCC following a Notice of Revocation, Suspension or payment of fines. Violation of this new rule by any Amateur after its effective date could easily place such an individual in the same position as the ex-ham he is relaying onto the air. (By FCC action, November 20, 1985)

Westlink Report, December 27, 1985

education corner



by Vern Valero, N1DSZ

WARS does it again! The membership has responded in a big way to teaching folks how to become radio Amateurs. We have a different teacher for every week for the technical subjects. Thanks so much for the response! This will reflect well upon our club and provides the novices with more incentive to join us.

The tentative teaching schedule is:

DATE	SUBJECT/TEACHER
1/6	Rules & Regs Vern Valero (N1DSZ)
1/20	Charges, Units, Resistance Dwight Williams (K1KKK)
1/27	Ohms Law, Series, Parallel Art Thompson (K1ENP)
2/3	Propagation Tom Burton (KX1H)
2/10	AC, Capacitors, Inductors

	Vern Valero (N1DSZ)
2/17	Tubes, Semicond, Oscillators Tom Kinahan (N1CPE)
2/24	Receivers, Transmitters Bill Hanlon (N1ADY)
3/3	Freq/Wavelength, antenna, SWR Mort Cohan (K1IU)
3/10	RFI and TVI Georges Vedio (K1LQO)
3/17	Operation, Contest, QSL Roger Smith (W1EOA)
3/24	Setting up Stn, Clubs, Fests Dick Weissel (W1HRV)

As of this writing the first class went smoothly. January 13 had to be postponed because of the Red Cross CPR class. Some students thought that CPR would be a good idea for troubleshooting transmitters, but I reassured them.

The Novice class starts with 19 students. All seem very interested and excited. We have people from all walks of life, including two school age kids! There is a sub-group of Citizens Band folks who have recently become discouraged with the 11 meter activities.

Unfortunately, the text, ARRL's 'Tune In The World', is in a new printing and will not be available for a couple of weeks. We are able to get along with copies of the book that I have made as handouts. But the real problem is that the students need the code practice introductory tape that comes along with the text. Let's just cross our fingers and hope that the ARRL comes across soon.

A special thanks goes out to Bill Hanlon, Tom Burton, Dwight Williams, and Tom Kinahan for attending the first class and helping out. Tom Burton gave a terrific talk about life on CW. Tom Kinahan got corralled into an unexpected talk about WARS. Bill and Dwight tried to keep me honest in class.

Again, thanks to every member who has stepped forward to teach or help in some way. I am confident that we will quite soon have a large group of new Novices just itching to call CQ!

FROM THE MAILBAG



I undertook the task of carrying fliers about the Novice Class to the three Wellesley Libraries, Heathkit, and the Wellesley Senior High School, and while at the latter I met Mr. Paul A. Lydon, Head of the Science Department.

I may be the only member of this Wellesley Amateur Radio Society who did not know that Mr. Lydon is a licensed Amateur Radio operator, and that the Wellesley Senior High School has a licensed Amateur Radio station, WA1DUL, of which Mr. Lydon, W1ZKU, is Trustee.

He gave me a long interview, which I will be happy to describe and comment about, but the essentials are that there is no activity there which he blames on the coming of CB radio. I asked if he remembered David Curry, K1TK, and Scott Nacey, WA1YOJ, etc., and he did and said that they were about the best, and last, of the active group at the Wellesley High School.

We talked about enticing more activity in several ways, one of which would be to make an annual award to the student most interested in Radio Communications. I have a list of the available awards for review and discussion.

I think that this would be an excellent topic for discussion at a near future business meeting.

--Thomas M. Burton, KX1H

Hamnews

Getting Technician Class license holders more operating privileges on 10 meters is the objective of a Petition for Rule Making filed before the FCC by Gordon Girton, W6NLG, and James Nixon, N4DVW.

Submitted on November 15th, their petition specifically seeks full operating privileges from 28.025 to 28.300

and 28.800 to 29.700 MHz. In addition, W6NLG and N4DVW want repeaters authorized to use spectrum between 28.200 and 28.300 as well as from 29.200 to 29.300 MHz along with permission for 6 kHz wide transmission modes there and 29.100 to 29.200 MHz for simplex communications.

The FCC is currently considering a proposal from the ARRL to give Novice Class operators limited radiotelephone privileges on 10 meters and several VHF/UHF bands.

If eventually enacted, any new privileges granted to Novices would automatically be extended to Technician Class holders, so in some ways, the W6NLG-N4DVW petition parallels a part of what the Commission is already considering.

Westlink Report, December 27, 1985

In the aftermath of the recent Mexico City earthquake, the San Diego Amateur Radio Club Council is spearheading a drive to actively seek a full time reciprocal operating agreement with Mexico.

Nick Callas, N6DEJ, will attempt to influence legislation pending in Congress, which reportedly favors an agreement. So far, though, it has been impossible to get positive action out of Mexico. To try to change this, Nick hopes to get the ham community in Mexico to encourage its government to negotiate an agreement with the United States. SANDARC hopes to have this agreement signed prior to the 1986 ARRL National Convention in San Diego. Tnx Counterpoise.

Westlink Report, December 27, 1985

In June of last year it came to the League's attention that a low-power TV station in Columbus, Ohio, was visually identifying as W8BV. The real W8BV is Stuart M. Brooks of Portland, Michigan; the assigned callsign of the LPTV station is W08BV. It's a no-no for LPTV stations to omit the "leading zero" from their calls, as directed by Section 74.783(d) of the Rules.

ARRL Letter, January 2, 1986

The Spark Gap

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